THE TENTH DAY.

22nd February 1913.

SUBJECTS.

The Assembly met again at 12 Noon, on Saturday, the 22nd February 1913.

141. The desirability of declaring Fridays as holidays for Mahomedans.

Mr. K. Mytheen Pillai (Member, Nominated) said that representations were made at the eighth session of the Assembly that the Mahomedans might be exempted from attending Courts on Friday; but no favourable reply was given by the Government. Friday was to the Mahomedans as much a Sabbath day as Sunday to the Christians. As the guardian of the religions of the State, the Government was bound to respect the feelings of the Mahomedans in having to attend the Courts on Fridays. Separate applications had now to be made on each occasion for the adjournment of cases posted for Fridays. That involved much hardship to the Mahomedans. It was his impression that there was an order of the Government allowing the Mahomedans holiday on Fridays till 2 P. M. consequent on the representations of his father at the fifth session of the Assembly. The Member requested that Friday should be declared a holiday to the Mahomedans, at least till 2 P. M.

Dewan's reply.—The matter will be noted.

142. The need for preventing the slaughter of cattle.

Mr. K. G. Sesha Iyer, B. A. & B. L. (Member, Nominated) said that the subject was one that was brought up last year and it was then presented in its religious and agricultural aspects. The religious aspect was no doubt very important, though perhaps it might not appeal to very many people now. The importance of cattle for agriculture and industry could not be over-estimated, and in a State which was essentially agricultural, the subject must be one of supreme importance, and all that was necessary to promote the interests of agriculture must be done by the Government. He however did not intend to traverse those grounds again and proposed to present the subject from the standard of public health.

There was, of late, a large volume of expert opinion against meat-eating and those who had made the question their life study had come to the distinct conclusion that meat was deleterious. Dr. Robert Bell, an acknowledged authority on cancer, observed:—"It is a remarkable fact that the flesh of dead animals, when entering into the dietary, not only undergoes the most offensive form of decomposition and gives rise to the most noxious toxins but also promotes the retention of these within the colon and so favours their absorption; and yet the most erroneous impressions as to the wholesomeness and nutritive value of butcher's meat are prevalent". At the meeting of the British Medical Congress held at Sheffield in 1910, the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly